

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 14, 17, 21, 29, and 32 have been amended. Claims 25 and 26 have been cancelled. Claims 14-24 and 27-32 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102: CLAIMS 14 – 24

In the Office Action, on page 3, numbered paragraph 5, claims 14 – 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chang et al (US Patent 7,280,530 B2) (hereinafter "Chang"). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and are not repeated here.

The rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

The presently amended claims 14 and 17 contain an additional element: *"means for responding to said request by connecting said second port directly to said caller at the remote location via the packet based telecommunication network"*. The additional element has full support in the text of the present application, see page 9, line 11, through page 10, line 1.

Figs. 6 and 7 of the Chang reference as cited by the Office Action, show clearly that the connection between the Called Gateway Server 126 and the Caller Telephone 38 goes via the Caller Gateway Server 26. The term "connecting ... directly" in the currently amended claims is understood by those skilled in the art to mean that the connection between the referenced points on the packet based network cannot contain any server. The Chang reference does not describe such a direct connection between the Caller Telephone 38 and the Called Gateway Server 126, so it does not anticipate the present invention as specified in claims 14 and 17.

The telecommunication system disclosed by Chang is intended for use within a company (see Abstract, line 1). The server 26 is only used by callers within the company, not by callers at other locations, while the server in the present invention is used by any caller on the packet based network. Therefore, in Chang's invention, it is sufficient to connect the device to the server to get both the signaling and voice and there is no need for a direct connection to the remotely located caller. Chang does not disclose or otherwise teach anything that would lead one skilled in the art to consider an apparatus or a system according to the present invention.

The difference between the system and the devices disclosed by Chang and the system and devices of the present invention are not trivial. The Chang system is a closed system, with directories in every device specifying available and allowable connections, so it is cumbersome to expand. In contrast, the system according to the invention is a system for callers anywhere on

the packet based network, which is easy to expand, as described in the application and in previous responses to Office Actions.

The present invention, as specified in independent claims 14 and 17, is new, not obvious in view of the cited prior art, and it represents an important advance of the art. Therefore, the rejections to independent claims 14 and 17 have been traversed. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections to claims 14 and 17 be withdrawn.

Claims 15, 16, and 23 depend from claim 14, and claims 18-22 and 24 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 17. Applicant believes the objections with respect to claims 14 and 17 have been overcome, and therefore there is no prima facie basis to reject dependent claim 15, 16, or 18-24. These claims should accordingly be allowable when independent claims 14 and 17 are allowed.

For formatting purposes only, claim 21 is currently amended.

CLAIMS 27-32

Claims 27 – 31 were allowed in accordance with the Office Action.

For formatting purposes only, claim 29 is currently amended.

Claim 32 was allowable if rewritten in independent form in accordance with the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 32 be withdrawn and that claim 32 is now allowed since it incorporates the subject matter of its base claim 14 and has been rewritten in independent form.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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